

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-23 and add the following new claims:

- ~~24.~~ (new) A wall repair compound comprising a filler material, a binder material, and a dust reducing additive.
25. (new) A wall repair compound as defined in claim 24, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises less than about 20% of the wall repair compound total wet weight.
26. (new) A wall repair compound as defined in claim 24, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises from about 0.1% to about 10% of the wall repair compound total wet weight.
27. (new) A wall repair compound as defined in claim 24, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises from about 1.5% to about 6.0% of the wall repair compound total wet weight.
28. (new) A wall repair compound as defined in claim 24, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises a wax.
29. (new) A wall repair compound as defined in claim 24, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises a mixture of at least two oils.
30. (new) A wall repair compound as defined in claim 29, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises a mixture of a mineral oil and an unsaturated oil.
31. (new) A wall repair compound as defined in claim 30, further comprising a surfactant.
32. (new) A wall repair compound as defined in claim 24, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises a saturated oil.

33. (new) A wall repair compound as defined in claim 24, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises a solvent which evaporates slower than water.

34. (new) A wall repair compound as defined in claim 24, wherein said filler material comprises from about 25% to about 95% of said wall repair compound total wet weight, and the binder material comprises from about 1% to about 45 % of said wall repair compound total wet weight.

35. (new) A wall repair compound as defined in claim 34, wherein said filler material includes a material selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate and calcium sulfate dihydrate.

36. (new) A wall repair compound as defined in claim 34, wherein said filler material comprises calcium sulfate hemihydrate.

37. (new) A wall repair compound as defined in claim 34, wherein said binder material is selected from the group consisting of acrylic resins and vinyl acetate copolymers.

38. (new) An initially paste-like mixture for filling joints between adjacent wallboard panels, and repairing cracks, holes, or other imperfections in a wall surface, said mixture including a dust reducing additive so that the mixture, when allowed to harden and sanded, generates a quantity of airborne particles having a size of less than 10 microns when tested as described in this specification which is 50% less than the quantity of airborne particles that would be generated by said mixture without said dust reducing additive.

39. (new) A mixture as defined in claim 38 which when tested as described in this specification generates a quantity of airborne particles 75% less than the amount that would be generated if said mixture contained no dust reducing additive.

40. (new) A mixture as defined in claim 38 which when tested as described in this specification generates a quantity of airborne particles 90% less than the amount that would be generated if said mixture contained no dust reducing additive.

41. (new) An initially paste-like mixture for filling joints between adjacent wallboard panels, and repairing cracks, holes, or other imperfections in a wall surface, said mixture including a dust reducing additive so that the mixture, when allowed to harden and sanded, generates a quantity of airborne particles having a size of less than 10 microns when tested as described in this specification which is less than 50 mg/m^3 .

42. (new) A mixture as defined in claim 41 which when tested as described in this specification generates less than 15 mg/m^3 of airborne particles.

43. (new) A mixture as defined in claim 41 which when tested as described in this specification generates less than 5 mg/m^3 of airborne particles.

44. (new) A mixture having an initially paste-like consistency for filling and repairing cracks, holes, or other imperfections in a surface and having a final hardened sandable condition which can be manually sanded to a smooth finish, said mixture including a dust reducing additive so that when said final hardened sandable mixture is sanded using the test procedure described in this specification, the quantity of airborne particles having a size of no greater than 10 microns is at least 50 percent lower than the quantity of airborne particles that would be generated if the mixture contained no dust reducing additive.

45. (new) A dust reducing additive composition for admixing with a drywall joint compound, said drywall joint compound comprising a filler and a binder, said additive comprising at least one of a wax, oil, surfactant, solvent, and mixtures thereof.

46. (new) A drywall joint compound comprising:

- (a) a filler selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate dihydrate, and calcium sulfate hemihydrate;
- (b) a binder;
- (c) a dust reducing agent present in an amount from about 1.5 to about 20 percent based on the wet weight of the joint compound; and

- (d) sufficient water to adjust the viscosity of said joint compound to render said joint compound suitable for use.

~~47.~~ (new) A drywall joint compound comprising by weight percent:

- (a) between about 25 percent and about 95 percent filler material;
- (b) between about 1 percent and about 45 percent binder material;
- (c) at least about 1.5 percent dust reducing additive; and
- (d) sufficient water to form a slurry with said filler material, said binder material, and said dust reducing additive.

~~48.~~ (new) A drywall joint compound comprising by weight percent:

- (a) between about 25 percent and about 95 percent filler material;
- (b) between about 1 percent and about 45 percent binder material;
- (c) between about 0.1 percent and about 20 percent dust reducing additive, said dust reducing additive comprising at least one of a wax, an oil, a solvent, and mixtures thereof; and
- (d) sufficient water to form a slurry with said filler material, said binder material, and said dust reducing additive.

~~49.~~ (new) A drywall joint compound having an initially paste-like consistency for filling joints between adjacent wallboard panels and having a hard sandable condition after being applied to a wallboard joint and allowed to harden, said compound comprising:

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over
- (a) a filler selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate dihydrate, and calcium sulfate hemihydrate;
 - (b) a binder;
 - (c) a dust reducing agent present in an amount from about 1.5 to about 20 percent based on the wet weight of the joint compound; and
 - (d) sufficient water to adjust the viscosity of said joint compound to render said joint compound suitable for use;

wherein said hardened compound, when sanded as described in this specification, generates a quantity of airborne particles having a size of less than 10 microns which is less than 15 mg/m³ and is at least 75% less than the amount that would be generated if the joint compound contained no dust reducing additive.